

Lesson Plan: Shape Monster's Colorful Lunch!

Materials Needed:

- Construction paper in various colors (red, blue, yellow, green, etc.)
- Child-safe scissors
- A large piece of paper or cardstock for the final art project (per student)
- A shoebox or small cardboard box
- Markers or crayons
- Glue stick
- Googly eyes (optional)
- A simple hand puppet or a drawing of a friendly monster (optional)

Teacher Prep: Before the lesson, cut the construction paper into a variety of basic shapes (circles, squares, triangles, rectangles) in different colors. Also, prepare the "Shape Monster" box by cutting a large mouth-shaped hole in it and drawing a friendly monster face around the hole.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, the student will be able to:

- Identify and name at least three basic shapes (e.g., circle, square, triangle).
 - Identify and name at least three primary colors (e.g., red, blue, yellow).
 - Sort objects based on a single attribute (shape or color).
 - Demonstrate fine motor skills by picking up and gluing small paper shapes.
 - Apply knowledge of shapes and colors to create a unique piece of art.
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Lesson Activities (Approx. 35-40 minutes)

1. Introduction: The Hungry Monster (5 minutes)

- **What to do:** Bring out the puppet or drawing of the friendly Shape Monster. Use a fun voice for the monster.
- **What to say:** "Hello! I'm the Shape Monster, and I am SO hungry! But I'm a very picky eater. I only eat yummy, colorful shapes! My tummy is rumbling for a big, red square. Can you help me find my lunch?"
- **Goal:** This story-based introduction captures the student's interest and sets up a playful goal for the lesson.

2. Activity 1: The Great Shape Hunt (10 minutes)

- **What to do:** Scatter the pre-cut construction paper shapes around the room. Give the student instructions, one at a time, on what "food" the monster wants.
 - **What to say:** "The Shape Monster is hungry for a blue circle! Can you find a blue circle?" or "Oh no, now his tummy is rumbling for a yellow triangle! Let's go find one!" Celebrate each successful find.
 - **Goal:** This active game gets the student moving while practicing identifying shapes and colors together. It encourages active listening and following simple directions.
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3. Activity 2: Feeding Time! (5 minutes)

- **What to do:** Bring out the "Shape Monster" shoebox. Have the student sort their collected shapes and "feed" them to the monster.
- **What to say:** "Great job hunting! Now let's feed the monster. First, let's feed him all the triangles. What color triangles do you have? Now, let's feed him everything that is green!"
- **Goal:** This activity reinforces sorting skills by both shape and color in a fun, hands-on way.

4. Activity 3: Create Your Own Shape Monster (15 minutes)

- **What to do:** Provide the student with a large piece of paper, a glue stick, and a pile of various shapes and colors. Encourage them to create their very own monster.
- **What to say:** "You've been such a great helper! Now you get to make your own friendly Shape Monster. What shape will you use for its body? How about a big square? What shape could you use for the eyes? How many eyes will it have? You are the artist, so you decide!"
- **Goal:** This is the creative application part of the lesson. It allows the student to make their own choices, solidifying their understanding of shapes in a personal and imaginative project. It also provides excellent fine motor practice with gluing.

Wrap-Up & Assessment (5 minutes)

- **Show and Tell:** Ask the student to present their Shape Monster masterpiece.
- **Guiding Questions:**
 - "Tell me about your monster! What is its name?"
 - "What shape did you use for its head?"
 - "I see you used a blue piece here. What shape is that?"
 - "How many circles did you use on your monster?"
- **Assessment:** This is an informal, conversation-based assessment. By listening to the student's description of their artwork, you can gauge their understanding and ability to name the shapes and colors they used. The final creation itself serves as a tangible product of their learning.

Differentiation & Extension Ideas

- **For Extra Support:** Start with only two shapes (e.g., circle and square) and two primary colors. Provide gentle hand-over-hand guidance for gluing if needed. You can also draw faint outlines of shapes on the paper for the student to match.
- **For an Extra Challenge:** Introduce more complex shapes (oval, star, heart) and secondary colors (purple, green, orange). Ask the student to create a pattern with their shapes (e.g., red circle, blue square, red circle...). With supervision, allow the student to try cutting their own simple shapes with child-safe scissors.